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STEADMAN in his treatise, *The Origin of the Historical Present in English* (Studies in Philology XIV University of N. C.)—and I append his results.

1. The historical present does not occur in Old English.
2. It occurs in the Latin writings of Englishmen of the eighth-eleventh centuries.
3. The historical present is consistently and repeatedly avoided in translating from Latin into Old English.
4. This use of the present appeared in written English at the beginning of the thirteenth century; it became fairly common before the end of the century; and by the end of the fourteenth century was used with the greatest freedom.

The question is very much complicated by the fact that our early literature is very largely a literature of translation and Mr. STEADMAN's title is disappointing, for he passes in review a number of theories but decides on none. Of course, as will appear from my previous discussions of the subject, I naturally inclined to Jespersen's view that the historical present has a native basis in English also—a native use which I supposed to be fostered by translation from Latin, for which we have a parallel in the literary use of the Latin infinitive, influenced in like manner by translation from Greek (A. J. P. XVII 520). But Mr. STEADMAN's statistics are disillusioning, so far as O. E. is concerned, unless one assumes that in O. E. the historical present was felt to be too vulgar for translation from the Latin.

W. P. M.: *Francisci Barbari De Re Uxoria Liber*. Nuova edizione per cura di ATTILIO GNESOTTO. Padova: G. B. Randi, 1915. 105 pp. This is an excellent edition of the famous treatise on marriage written by the Venetian scholar and statesman Francesco Barbaro. It was written in the winter of 1415-16. The author was only about 17 years old, but thanks to two of his teachers, Zaccaria Trevisan and Guarino Guarini, he could draw upon all the wisdom of the ancients. One specially interesting fact is his familiarity with Plutarch—a fact which ought to be added to the store of learning in Professor HIRZEL's recent book (A. J. P. XXXIV 117). Two other classical writers who are very freely used are Cicero and Virgil. The borrowings of word or phrase are regularly indicated in the notes, though the editor seems to have overlooked a couple of bits of Virgil. 'Justissima tellus', p. 1, l. 9, comes from Geor. II 460, and the expression 'usque adeo in teneris assuescere multum est', p. 75, l. 17, from Geor. II 272.

ERRATA.

XXXVIII 46, l. 10, for 'origin' read 'original'. 55, l. 7, for 'favoured' read 'flavoured'. 70, l. 11, for 'the children of thy youth' read 'children of the youth'. 70, l. 2 from bottom, after 'aor.' insert 'inf'.